



TO: V.J. St. Pierre Jr., PARISH PRESIDENT

FROM: Scott P. Whelchel, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
& EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

SUBJECT: 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (DHS&EP) continued to progress in 2010. After setting lofty achievement goals at the conclusion of 2009, we were able to meet them and even exceed some of those in 2010. The Department goals were training and planning focused along with elevating our response capabilities. In addition, we continued to explore all efforts to complete proactive mitigation projects available to our community.

The Department facilitates countless training opportunities allowing for the advancement of critical skills for the First Responder community of St. Charles Parish. This past year several agencies and individuals took advantage of these opportunities. A few examples of these courses include; National Incident Management System (NIMS), Hazardous Materials Response, and Emergency Management. In addition, Emergency Operations Staff participated in professional workgroups and conferences such as the National Hurricane Conference and the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association Workshop. The Department participated in "tabletop" exercises with International Matex Tank Terminal and Dow Chemical, a "full scale" Exercise with Monsanto Chemical, held a Parish-wide "full scale" Assisted Evacuation Exercise, and participated in numerous exercises and/or drills with Entergy's Waterford 3 facility. Emergency preparedness personnel provided numerous presentations to the community and industry groups on hurricane preparedness, industrial safety, and public safety.

St. Charles Parish DHS&EP joined other coastal parishes in the unified response to the Mississippi Canyon 252 British Petroleum Oil Spill Disaster. While the waterways of St. Charles Parish were not directly affected, the DHS&EP took many steps to ensure that

any potential threats to St. Charles Parish were proactively planned for. This included the completion of the first-ever Oil Spill Annex to our Parish All-hazards Plan. Throughout this event other DHS&EP activities included daily response coordination with both regional and statewide groups for over 90 days. Our department also coordinated the training of over 100 parish residents to provide them the opportunity to gain temporary employment in the disaster clean-up and response and conducted liaison with state and local social services to address many calls for assistance from residents who were affected by the spill. While it is difficult to find the positive effects of such a large scale disaster we can say with certainty that our ability to respond to unexpected large scale hazardous spills has been enhanced as a result.

Preparing and planning for any contingency is an essential part of our Department's mission. In 2010 we were able to complete a rewrite of our Basic Plan and also amend and update the plan's Implementing Procedures. Our planning efforts continue to include the enhancement of Homeland Security related procedures to counter threats that necessitate more adaptable planning considerations.

Mitigation projects provide the best way to proactively address the hazards facing St. Charles residents. To that end, the DHS&EP worked with the Parish Grant Office to facilitate the elevation of 13 flood prone homes through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This project is ongoing with completion scheduled for 2011. The Department continues to efforts to accomplish our goal of building a new Emergency Operations Center for St. Charles Parish. This past year countless man hours were dedicated to completing the design development and documentation phases to complete this project. These efforts will continue throughout the next year and we hope to see a completion in early 2012.

The Department of Emergency Preparedness strives to provide an essential service for the people of St. Charles Parish. Residents can rest assured that the St. Charles Parish DHS&EP continues to maintain a level of proficiency that exceeds the nationally recognized baseline capability levels.